

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year Eighteen Eighty-Eight

VOL. 51, NO. 47

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1940

\$1.50 A YEAR

LIGHT RESPONSE TO PLEA FOR RED CROSS WAR FUND

Need For Relief in War-Stricken Sections is Appalling as Nation Strives to Relieve Suffering Among Innocent Victims; the Local Figures

A check-up on the Watauga chapter, American Red Cross, indicates that Watauga county people are responding scantily to the appeals being made by the president, Mrs. E. E. Garbee, for assistance in raising \$300 to take care of Watauga's part in a ten million dollar fund to relieve suffering among war-ridden peoples of Europe.

The need for relief in Europe is growing daily as the mechanized forces of an invading army lay waste and pillage the homes and properties of a large civilian population. The need for food supplies, medical attention, etc., to alleviate human suffering is acute, and Watauga county people are urged to help in raising the small amount required from this county. Contributions may be given Mrs. E. E. Garbee, Miss Bernice Gragg at the Northwestern Bank, of the Watauga Democrat office.

Following is a list of those contributing as this is written:

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Watauga Democrat | \$10.00 |
| Mrs. Elsie Hagaman | 3.00 |
| Mrs. J. C. McConnell | 2.00 |
| Paul Hagaman | 1.00 |
| Miss Elizabeth Lord | 1.00 |
| Mrs. T. M. Greer | 1.00 |
| Mrs. Minnie Watson | 1.00 |
| Mrs. W. F. Miller | 1.00 |
| Three Forks S. S. | 4.03 |
| Willowdale S. S. | 2.75 |
| | \$26.73 |

Allies Battle Desperately To Hold Channel Sector

Paris, May 22.—The Allies, with their backs to the English Channel, last night fought against a new German advance which spread a path of fire across northern France and threatened to isolate England.

The French high command's night communique admitted the Germans drove their advance guard to Amiens and Arras on the edge of the coastal plain leading to the English Channel.

A war ministry spokesman added that German motorcycle troops had pushed on to penetrate the outskirts of the Abbeville region. The city of Abbeville is some 12 miles from the channel's open waters.

Heavy rumbling like distant thunder, such as that heard during the World War, rattled telegraphs and windows across the channel in the British east coast towns.

The British expeditionary force was bearing the brunt of the battle. The troops of Lord Gort, British field commander, were installed in the coastal sector fighting with rifles and machine guns against German planes and tanks in a last stand to keep the Reichswehr from taking control of the channel.

Farther east, the French were reported still holding out at Cambrai, behind the German advanced lines. There was no mention in Paris of any Germans reaching the channel itself.

The French called the situation "extremely grave" but said that with their troops holding Cambrai, east of Arras, and the British battling the Germans in other sectors, the Allied command was confident it could "re-establish" its lines.

German motorcycle units thrust along roads to the west of Arras and Amiens behind advance bombardments and machine gunning from Nazi planes.

Other roads radiating from the French towns, filled with refugees, were reported strafed by the Germans from the air.

Amiens and Arras were enveloped in flames by the time they were reached by German motorized elements of 3,000 to 4,000 men each.

The Germans unleashed their full blast of destruction as they neared their objective of reaching the sea and cutting off the British, French and Belgian forces in Belgium.

To the bombs launched from planes and shells fired from armor-covered guns, were added flames from incendiary bombs and torches carried by parachute troops.

Towns, villages and fields west of the battle lines were reported burning as the German tanks lumbered through clouds of smoke into Arras and Amiens, two of their greatest prizes since their invasion of France.

The Allies called upon all the force they could muster to meet the German challenge.

The high command announced that dive bombers had been taken from the fleet to harass the German land columns, in co-operation with scouting and bomber formations.

A number of American dive-bombing planes were delivered recently to the French navy.

The French alone were reported to have brought down 303 German planes with their anti-aircraft guns and fighter ships since the German push started May 10, not counting those accounted for by the British.

At the close of the 12th day of the German offensive, the western front ran nearly 400 miles from Belgium, south through Arras and Amiens, then east along the Aisne River to

Reported Killed



London—Webb Miller, veteran foreign and war correspondent for the United Press, was killed when he apparently fell from a moving train. His body was found on the railroad right-of-way near Clapham Junction.

GOLF COURSE PLAN IS DISCUSSED HERE

George Blagg, Professional Constructor and Operator, Approves Tater Hill Site

Mr. George Blagg of Blowing Rock and Florida, professional builder of golf courses over the country, as well as operator, was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and Merchants Association Tuesday evening, and gave his emphatic approval to the golf course site on Tater Hill mountain.

Mr. Blagg, after having inspected the site, says the location is ideal and would have the distinction of being the highest golf course east of the Rockies. He says the course could be easily built and would cost no more than the average project. Mr. Blagg was presented to make the report for a special committee which had been appointed by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. John Prevette of North Wilkesboro, one of the leading figures in the mercantile field of western Carolina, spoke to the group on "Salesmanship." Mr. Prevette emphasized the fact that salesmanship and advertising could produce the same results for a city or community as for a private business enterprise.

Mr. S. C. Eggers, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, says the organization is going along fine and that there is a splendid spirit of cooperation. The following have recently been enrolled as members: Wade Brown, M. W. Beach, Boone Feed Co., Pearson's store.

Gravelly Urges Fairer Hours For Road Men

Statesville, May 22.—Speaking before a large audience of business men here on Tuesday evening, L. Lee Gravelly, Democratic candidate for governor, criticized the long hours imposed by the state highway commission on maintenance foremen and machine operators, and promised that if elected to the office he seeks that such practices will cease. He pointed out to his listeners the fact that many of these men actually are in service twelve hours per day, receiving as compensation pay for only the ten hours actually worked on the roads.

"In my business, and in all other private enterprises," he continued, "labor is rewarded for the time it is actually in duty, and I can see no reason why these methods should not be applied to the men who have so loyally toiled in the maintenance of our road system."

Mr. Gravelly, making the race for the governorship as a "business candidate," also promised that he would cause to be written into law a provision that at least 15 per cent of the revenues collected by the highway department be set aside for the construction of secondary roads.

Work On Tater Hill Lake Is Progressing

A steam shovel is now engaged in making excavations for a lake on Tater Hill mountain, according to Mr. S. C. Eggers, who is in charge of the huge development project. There are 66,000 yards of dirt to be moved, and the lake will cover from three to five acres of land, with a maximum depth of 30 feet. The lake will be used for fishing, swimming and boating.

Work of improving the road from the lake to the summit of the mountain is going on and in a few days cars can be driven to the Linney stone house on the mountain top. Six miles of bridal trails have been laid out along the crest of the mountain.

Scientists say that 7½ hours sleep is plenty for a normal man or woman.

Montmedy and down the Maginot line to Switzerland.

NEWTON HOWELL SUCCUMBS MONDAY

Former County Commissioner and Educational Leader Dies After Long Illness

William Newton Howell, former member of the Watauga county board of commissioners, and an early-day educational leader in this region, succumbed Monday morning at his home at Brookside, in Bald Mountain township. Mr. Howell, who was 72 years old, had been ill for several months.

Funeral services were conducted from the South Fork Baptist church Tuesday afternoon, Rev. W. D. Ashley, the pastor, being in charge. Rev. H. M. Winkler, a former pastor, also took part in the services which were attended by a large number of people from the home neighborhood, from Boone and other parts of the county. During the course of the services Attorney W. R. Lovill, who was a schoolmate of the deceased at Sutherland Academy, paid tribute to the life of Mr. Howell, stating that he had lived with him throughout all the years and had never known him to utter a word ill-befitting a Christian gentleman. Dr. E. B. Dougherty spoke of Mr. Howell's life from an educational viewpoint, stating that he and the deceased worked together for 40 years in the interest of public education, and that his life was a challenge to every young man in the county.

Active pallbearers were: Newton Blackburn, Wade Norris, Turner Watson, Dwight Stanbury, Hamp Blackburn, Ralph Greer, A. C. Miller. Honorary: J. B. Hagaman, Len Hagaman, Bernard Dougherty, E. B. Dougherty, Wade E. Brown, Clyde Eggers, Oscar Coffey, W. D. Farthing, George Hagaman, L. T. Tatum, W. R. Lovill, R. F. McDade, D. J. Whitener, J. D. Rankin, Prof. Wolfe, E. E. Garbee, W. Amos Abrams, W. G. Hartzog, Chappel Wilson, J. T. C. Wright, Wiley Smith, B. W. Stallings, Cecil Miller, G. K. Moore, R. T. Greer, Marion Thomas, H. R. Eggers, R. H. Harmon and A. R. Smith.

Interment was in the Howell cemetery near the late residence. Mr. Howell was the son of the late Wiley and Matilda Young Howell, and had resided at Brookside since his marriage. He was one of the leaders in the educational life of the county. For twelve years he was a member of the board of education of Watauga county, serving with J. W. Farthing and T. P. Adams throughout the long administration of Dr. B. B. Dougherty as county superintendent. During this time Mr. Howell assisted in the location of the Cove Creek school, riding horseback over icy roads to take part in the work. He was one of the early exponents of public education, and also contributed to the business life of the neighborhood and county. He was in the mercantile business for about ten years, was a member of the board of directors of the Bank of Todd.

Mr. Howell also contributed of his time and talents and resources to the work of the church in his section. For more than 52 years he was a member of the South Fork Baptist church, and for many years was Sunday school teacher and superintendent. He was one of the county's finest citizens.

Mr. Howell served capably for two terms as a member of the board of county commissioners, having been elected to this office in the years 1922 and 1924.

The widow, the former Miss Laura Tatum, survives, together with seven sons, all of whom are leading citizens of their respective communities. Prof. V. C. Howell and Prof. John T. Howell, of the Appalachian College faculty; former Sheriff A. Y. Howell, Boone; Glenn Howell, Vaughn Howell and C. H. Howell of Brookside, and Don Howell, Spruce Pine. One brother, D. C. Howell of Todd, survives, and three sisters, Mrs. Dora Davis and Mrs. Mattie Houck, Todd, and Mrs. W. L. Upright of Mooresville. There are 16 grandchildren.

Many Houses Wanted In This Community

Mr. S. C. Eggers, local realtor, states that in one day recently he had inquiries from 26 people wanting houses and apartments in this locality. This winter and spring, he says, at least 500 people have applied to him for housing accommodations.

Anyone having houses or apartments for rent should see Mr. Eggers.

Hundreds of Acres Burned in Forest Fire

About seven hundred acres of timberland were burned over in a fire in the Poplar Grove section of Watauga Sunday afternoon and night. The fire started at 4 o'clock and raged until rain aided in its extinguishment at 1 o'clock Monday morning.

The fire started from brush which had been ignited and spread rapidly on the lands of Kale Greer, R. A. Adams, M. C. Cornett and several other families.

This is the second fire in the past two weeks to destroy timber in this county. About 5,000 acres were burned in Elk township last week.

AS DRYS MET IN CHICAGO



Chicago, Ill.—The past presidents of the Prohibition party photographed at the opening of its three-day national convention, recently. Left to right: Dr. Leigh Colvin of New York, president in 1936; William F. Varney of New York, president in 1928, and William D. Upshaw of Georgia, president in 1932.

WATAUGA CATTLE WIN NEW LAURELS

Local Hereford Takes Grand Championship at Fat Stock Show in Augusta, Ga.

Watauga-bred Hereford cattle extended their prize-winning stride into two other states this spring, an investigation by County Agent Harry Hamilton revealing that the calf which won the grand championship at the Twin-State fat stock show in Augusta, Ga., on April 3, was bred in this county. Many entries from the states of South Carolina and Georgia featured the show, which was widely attended by breeders and buyers.

The grand championship calf was bred on the D. L. Gienn farm at Vilas and was sired by John Dugger's bull. This feeder steer was sold at the Asheville fat cattle show to a Georgia dealer, who in turn traded him to Craig Gay, an FFA boy of Rockyford, Ga. Gay, who is 13 years old, exhibited the calf at the county show and also at the agents' show and won the grand championship at both events.

According to E. W. Graham, vocational teacher, who supervised the feeding of this steer, young Gay sold his 845-pound steer for 50 cents per pound and won \$90 in prizes. In other words, the calf brought \$512.

Since the Georgia show inquiries have been coming to the county agent asking for Hereford calves from this section, thus adding to the widespread demand for Watauga-bred calves, which had been increasing from year to year.

CATTLE IN COUNTY ARE TO BE TESTED

County Commissioners Make Appropriation for Protection Against Bangs Disease

At their regular May meeting, the board of county commissioners made the necessary appropriation for having all the breeding cattle in Watauga county tested for Bangs disease, and are receiving congratulations from the farmers of the county for making this much-needed work possible.

It is felt that this test will not only save the farmers of the county thousands of dollars but it will cause more cattle buyers to come to the county in search of cattle which have been tested for Bangs disease. The state and federal governments co-operate in furnishing a veterinarian to do the testing, while the county will only need to furnish the funds for a helper to assist with the work.

A Contagious Disease

Bangs disease is very contagious among all breeding cattle. The common name for Bangs disease is "abortion." Cows that have this disease give birth to premature calves and since there is no cure for this disease all animals that have it must be killed in order to keep it from spreading to other herds. This disease does not injure the carcass of the affected animal, therefore, they can be sold for beef.

The government also pays up to \$25 indemnity on grades and up to \$50 on purebreds.

TOMPKINS TO BE HEARD OVER STATION WWNC

Sylva, N. C., May 22.—Dan Tompkins, the mountain candidate for lieutenant governor, will speak to the people of his mountain country over radio station WWNC, Asheville, Thursday night, May 23, from 9:15 to 9:45 o'clock.

Mr. Tompkins stated today that it had been impossible for him to visit all sections of the state, even the mountain counties, because he is hindered by lack of time and finances. His friends, therefore, have put up the money to make it possible for him to carry his message to all western North Carolina, by radio, two days prior to the primary.

PRIMARY DAY ON SATURDAY; LOCAL MEN CITE BELIEFS

Managers for Candidates for Governor Issue Claims as Primary Day Draws Near; Increased Interest Being Shown

Saturday is primary day, when both Democrats and Republicans will join in naming their respective candidates for state office, and an investigation by the Watauga Democrat the first of the week indicates that there is an increasing interest in the race for the Democratic nomination for governor, each of the managers in this locality predicting Watauga county will lend the majority part of its support to their candidates.

Horton, Broughton, Gravelly and Maxwell, it would appear, are each coming in for some support in Watauga county, while the newspaper has had no word of any support of Cooper, Grady or Simmons. At the most, however, Watauga will cast a light vote, it is predicted, most estimates running from 1,000 to 1,500.

On the Republican ticket, local partisans appear to favor Robert H. McNeill for governor. Watauga's Republican candidate for state treasurer, Watt H. Gragg, is unopposed in the primary.

Says Horton Ahead

Attorney W. R. Lovill, manager for Mr. Horton, when asked for a statement, said: "Wilkins P. Horton will make a great governor and if the present change to him continues, his worthy opponents may not request a second primary. Watauga county is a conservative county, and each of the splendid men who desire to become our next governor will have no reason whatever to grieve."

Brown For Broughton

Wade E. Brown, Boone lawyer, and manager for Broughton, issues the following statement: "The enthusiastic response of loyal Democrats and fine citizens from every section of Watauga county for Mr. Broughton, confirms my deep faith in our citizenship to select wisely the man who shall head the government of our great state."

"Such shrewd political observers as Tom Bost of the Greensboro Daily News, Henry Averill, special correspondent of the afternoon North Carolina newspapers, and Stanley Wohl, state political reporter in Raleigh for the Charlotte Observer, all agree that Broughton will lead in the primary Saturday. Mr. Wohl predicts that the Broughton lead will be between 30,000 and 45,000 votes over Maxwell in the second place."

"Commenting on the upswing and downswings of the various candidates, Averill adds that 'it now seems that the Broughton swing is upward.' The lead is definite and commanding for Broughton in Watauga county."

Says Gravelly the Man

Rob Rivers, who two weeks ago took over the managership for Lee Gravelly, is hopeful. He says:

"Lee Gravelly is without doubt going places in Watauga county. Being a farmer and a plain but competent business man, he is really taking with our mountain people. It is my judgment that he will have a handsome plurality in Watauga, and even a majority of the votes cast is possible. He is now gaining throughout the state faster than any other candidate, and his entrance into the second primary is almost certain."

Speak For Maxwell

The board of managers appointed by Candidate A. J. Maxwell stated through a spokesman that "our man has gained considerable ground during the past few days and is going to poll a large vote in Watauga Saturday."

Mr. Maxwell's splendid knowledge of the state's fiscal affairs, they say, has found favor among business leaders here and in other sections of North Carolina, "unquestionably enough to place him in a second primary."

The polls will open at 7 a. m. and close at 7 p. m.

Memorial Services To Be Held Sunday

Memorial services for the World War and Spanish War veterans will be held at the state fish hatchery near Boone Sunday, May 26, at 11 o'clock, says an announcement by Lionel Ward, Cleve Gross and Albert Watson, a special committee on arrangements for the occasion.

A special invitation is extended to the Civil War veterans to be present on this occasion. The Oak Grove quartet will sing and Rev. Dwight Edmisten is scheduled to deliver the sermon.

The public is cordially invited to take part with the veterans and bring baskets as dinner for everyone will be served.

RESURFACE HIGHWAY

Work on resurfacing U. S. 321, from Green Park hotel to Curtis store, at the foot of the mountain, is to start on May 27, according to word from James H. Council, resident highway engineer, who states that this link of the highway will be closed for about ten days.